

**CLAIM AMENDMENTS:**

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A quick-release joint for two tubes, the quick-release joint comprising:

a hollow cylindrical first connector adapted to securely connect to a first tube, the first connector having an inner lip formed on an inner surface of the first connector;

a hollow cylindrical second connector adapted to securely connect to a second tube, wherein the second connector is pivotally connected to the first connector, so that the second connector is pivotal, relative to the first connector, about a pivot axis, and is slidable along the pivot axis so as to be movable to a position axially offset from the first connector, the second connector has a protrusion formed on an inner surface of the second connector and having an outer groove formed on the protrusion next to the top surface of the second connector to correspond to the inner lip; and

a retainer formed on a side of the first connector and the second connector to move the first connector to axially align with the second connector such that the inner lip is received in the outer groove of the protrusion to secure connection between the first connector and the second connector.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The A quick-release joint for two tubes, the quick-release joint comprising:

a hollow cylindrical first connector adapted to securely connect to a first tube, the first connector having an inner lip formed on an inner surface of the first connector;

a hollow cylindrical second connector adapted to securely connect to a second tube, wherein the second connector is pivotally connected to the first connector and is axially offset from the first connector, the second connector has a protrusion formed on an inner surface of the second connector and having an outer groove formed on the protrusion next to the top surface of the second connector to correspond to the inner lip; and

a retainer formed on a side of the first connector and the second connector to move the first connector to axially align with the second connector such that the inner lip is received in the outer groove of the protrusion to secure connection between the first connector and the second connector as claimed in claim 1,

wherein the first connector has a sleeve formed on a side of the first connector, the second connector has a pair of ears separated from each other by a distance larger than a length of the sleeve so that the sleeve is slidable between the pair of ears.

Claim 3 (Original): The quick-release joint as claimed in claim 2 further comprising a pin extending through the sleeve and the pair of ears to secure the

sleeve between the pair of ears and a first spring mounted around the pin and sandwiched between the sleeve and one of the ears to urge the first connector to be axially offset from the second connector.

Claim 4 (Original): The quick-release joint as claimed in claim 1, wherein the retainer comprises a push securely engaged with an outer side surface of the first connector, a bolt with a first distal end extending into the second connector to securely connect to an inner surface of the second connector and a handle rotatable relative to the push and having a second distal end of the bolt rotatably received by a rotating axle inside the handle, the handle having an eccentric cammed head selectively engaging with a concave outer surface of the push so as to push the first connector to axially align with the second connector.

Claim 5 (Original): The quick-release joint as claimed in claim 3, wherein the retainer comprises a push securely engaged with an outer side surface of the first connector, a bolt with a first distal end extending into the second connector to securely connect to an inner surface of the second connector and a handle rotatable relative to the push and having a second distal end of the bolt rotatably received inside the handle, the handle having an elliptical head selectively engaging with an outer surface of the push so as to push the first connector to align with the second connector.

Claim 6 (Original): The quick-release joint as claimed in claim 5, wherein the retainer further has a second spring sandwiched between an outer surface of the second connector and an inner surface of the push to provide a recovery force to the push and handle after the elliptical head of the handle engages with the outer surface of the push.

Claim 7 (Original): The quick-release joint as claimed in claim 6, wherein the first connector has a recessed area formed on the outer surface of the first connector to receive therein one portion of the push and the second connector has another recessed area formed on an outer surface of the second connector to receive therein the other one portion of the push.

Claim 8 (Original): The quick-release joint as claimed in claim 7, wherein the outer surface of the push is concave and the inner surface of the push is convex.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): In a quick-release joint for two tubes, the quick-release joint having:

a first connector adapted to securely connect to a first tube, the first connector having a first inner lip formed on an inner surface of the first connector;

a second connector adapted to securely connect to a second tube, wherein the second connector is pivotally connected to the first connector, so that the

second connector is pivotal, relative to the first connector, about a pivot axis, and is slidable along the pivot axis so as to be movable to a position axially offset from the first connector, the second connector has a protrusion formed on an inner surface of the second connector and having an outer groove formed on the protrusion next to a top face of the second connector to correspond to the first inner lip; and

a retainer formed on a side of the first connector and the second connector to move the first connector to align with the second connector such that the first inner lip is received in the outer groove of the protrusion to secure connection between the first connector and the second connector, wherein the improvements ~~comprise:~~ the retainer includes a first arm, a second arm, a cylindrical connector and a threaded bolt, wherein the first arm is securely connected to an outer surface of the first connector and has a tubular connector integrally formed with the first arm, the second arm is securely connected to an outer surface of the second connector, the threaded bolt extends through the cylindrical connector to be ready to abut an inner surface of the second connector, whereby before the extension of the threaded bolt, the first connector is mis-aligned with the second connector, after the threaded bolt threadingly extends further into the cylindrical connector to abut the inner surface of the second connector, the second connector is moved by the extension of the threaded bolt to axially align with the first connector.

Claims 10-11 (Canceled).

Claim 12 (New): The quick-release joint as claimed in claim 1, wherein the retainer exerts a force in a direction parallel to the pivot axis, to move the first connector to axially align with the second connector.